

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending, with claim 1 being independent.

There are no formal matters outstanding.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,404,857.

As correctly noted by the Official Action, a timely-filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321(c) overcomes such a rejection. Accordingly, attached is the necessary terminal disclaimer.

In view of a proper terminal disclaimer having been filed, the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is overcome. Therefore, there are no substantive rejections pending.

In view of the above, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

Should there be any further formal issues that are discovered, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit
counsel's Deposit Account No. 25-0120 the requisite 37 CFR
1.20(d) statutory disclaimer fee of \$55.

Respectfully submitted,

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